after imposing a penalty. The contract for the work in reach (2) was cancelled, as the contractor did not start the work. The contract for the work in reach (3) was also cancelled, as the contractor did not remit the security deposits and sign the agreement. Proposals for executing the work in these two reaches through piece workers are under consideration of the Highways and Rural Works Department.

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 554 on page 19.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL HELD AT NEW DELHI ON JUNE 2 AND 3, 1962.

The National Integration Conference, convened by the Prime Minister which met at New Delhi from the 28th September to the 1st October 1961, decided to set up a National Integration Council to review all matters pertaining to national integration and to make recommendations thereon. The composition of the Council is as follows :—

(1) Prime Minister as Chairman.

(2) The Union Home Minister.

(3) Chief Ministers of all States.

(4) Seven leaders of political parties represented in Parliament.

(5) Chairman of the National Integration Committee of the Indian National Congress (Shrimathi Indira Gandhi).

(6) Chairman, University Grants Commission.

(7) Two Educationists.

(8) Seven persons nominated by the Prime Minister.

(9) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

(10) Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. The first meeting of the National Integration Council was held in the Vigyan Bhavan at New Delhi on June 2 and 3, 1962. A list of persons who attended the meeting of the Council is given in Appendix I.

3. The Prime Minister in his opening speech welcomed the members. He explained that the delay in holding the meeting had been caused by the fact that general elections had intervened in the early part of the year. A paper outlining the progress of implementation of the recommendations made by the National Integration Conference was circulated to the members. The Prime Minister indicated that during the general elections, certain undesirable trends had manifested themselves and some disruptive factors had come into evidence in the course of the election campaign.

23rd July 1962]

4. The members of the Council then entered upon a general discussion regarding trends and developments since the meeting of the National Integration Conference held in October last, with particular reference to the action to be taken for the preservation of the unity of India and against communalism. Several members took part in this general discussion and made a survey of the developments during recent months. As a result of these discussions, three main problems presented themselves for further and closer examination.

5. The first problem was the place of English, Hindi and the regional languages in University education, with particular reference to the need for the preservation of a link language between the Universities and the teaching of English as a language of international importance for the enrichment of the Indian languages in Science and Technology. A Committee was appointed to consider this problem and to report to the Council on the 3rd June 1962. The Committee consisted of—

(1) Dr. Sampurnanand—*Chairman*.

(2) Dr. C. D. Deshmukh.

(3) Dr. D. S. Kothari.

(4) Shri K. M. Munshi.

(5) Shri Frank Anthony.

(6) Bhai Jodh Singh.

(7) Dr. Jivraj Narayan Mehta.

6. After considering the report of the Sampurnanand Committee, the Council adopted the following resolution :—

" The Council reaffirms the conclusions set out in paragraph 15 of the Statement issued by the National Integration Conference in September–October 1961. The Council recalls that these conclusions did not differ materially from the decisions in regard to the medium of instruction at the University stage arrived at by the Chief Ministers' Conference in August 1961, as also that they had since been accepted by the Emotional Integration Committee in its preliminary report.

The Council observes that the policy in this respect is being implemented in varying measures by different Universities, but it is of the view that its implementation should be more purposeful. In the Council's view, the change is justified not so much by cultural or political sentiments as on the very important academic consideration of facilitating grasp and undertaking of the subject-matter. Further, India's University men will be unable to make their maximum possible contribution to the advancement of learning generally, and science and technology in particular, unless there was a continuous means of communication in the shape of the regional languages between its masses, its artisans and technicians and its University men. The development of the talent latent in the country will also, in the view of the Council, be retarded unless regional languages are employed as media of instruction at the University stage.

[23rd July 1962

The Council considers that while generally speaking the replacement of English as medium was thus an inevitable end which should be actively pursued, every care should be taken by Universities to ensure that the transition is made without jeopardising the quality of education and after careful preparation, e.g., the co-operation of teachers and the availability of good 'standard' books written by University teachers or other experts for which every incentive should be provided by the authorities concerned.

The Council lays stress on the importance of teaching English as a compulsory subject, whether in any transitional scheme of the adoption of regional languages as medium of instruction, or even after the replacement has been fully carried out at a future date. In the transitional stage, English will serve as the link among University men and between university and university in respect of exchange of professors or migration of students; whilst, at all times, as a language of great international importance, English would furnish a link with the outside world, constitute an indispensable tool for further study and assist in the development of the regional languages.

The Council hopes that while English would thus be an international link at all times, its place as an internal link will gradually be taken by Hindi as it develops. The Council therefore urges that at the university stage, the students should be equipped with a progressively better command of Hindi in addition to a good working knowledge of English such as would enable them to follow lectures delivered in that language.

In the light of these considerations, the Council reiterates the recommendation of the Chief Ministers' Conference that the standard of teaching both in Hindi and English, should be improved and maintained at a high level in schools and colleges.

The change in the medium of instruction in a University is primarily a question for the university to decide. While it seems natural that regional languages would gradually become the media of instruction at the university stage, the Council sees no reason why there should be any bar to the use of English or Hindi as a medium of instruction in a university, or in some of its colleges. Indeed it foresees that in some special circumstances the establishment of such a college might become a desideratum.

In this connection, the Council urges that there should be a provision in every university permitting the use of Hindi or English as an option to the regional language for answering examination papers."

7. The two other main problems which emerged and which called for further examination were the problem arising out of the agitations for regional separatism in certain parts of the country and the problem of communalism. Two Committees were appointed to deal with (*a*) the problem of national integration and regionalism and (*b*) the problem of national integration and communalism.

23rd July 1962]

The problems entrusted to these Committees have certain aspects in common and it was, therefore, expected that the Committees may function together whenever they considered it appropriate to do so. The Committees were also authorized to co-opt not more than two members each if they considered it necessary. It was realised that the work of these two Committees may take some time and they were, therefore, requested to make their report to the next meeting of the Council. The following members were appointed to the two Committees :—

(a) *Committee on National Integration and Regionalism.*

(1) Shri C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar—*Chairman.*

(2) Shri K. Kamaraj.

(3) Shri Y. B. Chavan.

(4) Shri B. Patnaik.

(5) Shri Asoka Mehta.

(6) Shri B. P. Chaliha.

(b) *Committee on National Integration and Communalism.*

(1) Shri Asoka Mehta—*Chairman.*

(2) Shrimathi Indira Gandhi.

(3) Shri A. B. Vajpayee.

(4) Shri Bisanchandar Seth.

(5) Shri Sadiq Ali.

(6) Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad.

(7) Prof. M. Mujeeb.

8. The Council next considered the question of evolving codes of conduct for (a) political parties, (b) students and (c) the Press. The Council reaffirmed the code which had been recommended for adoption by political parties by the National Integration Conference last October. The Council urged the various political parties in the country effectually to implement these recommendations in regulating the conduct of their members.

9. The Council was of the view that it would be desirable to evolve a code of conduct not only for the different grades of students but also for the teachers and the various educational institutions and political parties. In drawing up such a code, there should be the fullest consultation with universities and educational institutions. A Committee was set up to examine the question further. The Committee would consult the universities and educational institutions while preparing the draft code which it would submit to the Council at its next meeting. The following were appointed to the Committee :—

(1) Dr. K. L. Shrimali—*Chairman and Convener.*

(2) Shri C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

(3) Dr. C. D. Deshmukh.

(4) Dr. D. S. Kothari.

(5) Bhai Jodh Singh.

[23rd July 1962

10. The proposal to evolve a code of conduct for the Press was considered by the National Integration Conference in October last. The Conference had recommended that the Council should take steps to evolve such a code of conduct. The Press had a vital role to play in national integration by promoting a feeling of national unity and solidarity, by setting its face against disruptive forces and by exercising due restraint and a sense of responsibility in dealing with matters likely to create tension or promote antagonisms or animosites.

11. The Council considered a draft code of conduct for the Press placed before it (Appendix II). The Council felt that the draft code was worthy of acceptance. The efficacy of such a code would. however, depend on its willing acceptance by the Press.

12. The Press Commission, whose report was published in 1954, had come to the conclusion that the establishment of a Press Council was a matter of great importance not only to safeguard editorial independence but also for ensuring objectivity in the presentation of news and views. The Press Commission had stated that the formulation and implementation of a code dealing with the rights and responsibilities of the Press will be one of the primary duties and obligations of the Press Council when it is established. Special attention was paid to certain principles that should find a place in the code of journalistic etiquette. These are set out in Appendix III.

13. Having regard to the adequate and comprehensive code of conduct for the Press on the lines indicated in the report of the Press Commission, the National Integration Council desired to stress the importance of implementing those recommendations as early as possible. In the meanwhile, the Council recommended to Government the setting up of a Committee to confer with the different sections of the Press and to examine and formulate a Press Code with due regard to the Press Commission's recommendations.

14. The Council considered a proposal to evolve a code of conduct for elections including Panchayat Raj elections. It discussed at some length the proposal to evolve a code for elections to the different bodies at various levels in the Panchayat Raj scheme. It was revealed that there was considerable diversity among the different States as regards the statutory provisions for elections to the Village Panchayats, the Block Panchayat Samitis and the Zilla Parishads as well as in the extent of devolution of functions and powers to these bodies. In the circumstances, the Council felt that while the balance of advantage lay in keeping party politics out of the Panchayat elections, particularly at the village or primary level, it was advisable to defer further consideration of the question to a future session. The Council desired that in the meanwhile the situation should be kept under careful review.

23rd July 1962]

15. The Council considered a suggestion by Shri K. M. Munshi that the question of encroachments, legislative or administrative. on the common citizenship rights as regards residence, service, education, trade, business and property throughout the country be examined. The discussion centred in the main on the question of admission of universities and educational institutions in different States. The Council noted that universities can and should exert a powerful unifying influence in the country. It, therefore, strongly recommended that admissions to the universities should not be denied on considerations of place of birth, residence, caste or creed (except in so far as any reservations have been provided under the Constitution).

16. Certain film producers had conveyed a suggestion to the Council that they may undertake production of a series of documentaries and short films to further the cause of national integration. The Council welcomed the proposal and decided that it may be referred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for further consideration. The Ministry was requested to make a report on the subject at the next meeting of the Council.

17. In his concluding remarks, the Prime Minister referred to the question of the constitution of All-India Services. He observed that the setting up of All-India Services would help in furthering the cause of national integration. He expressed the hope that the State Governments would give early consideration to the proposals already sent to them.

18. It was decided that the next meeting of the Council may be held at some place outside Delhi, preferably at Hyderabad or Bangalore, towards the end of September or the beginning of October 1962.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND SPECIAL INVITEES.

The Prime Minister—*Chairman.*

The Union Home Minister.

Chief Ministers of States—

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, Andhra Pradesh.

Shri B. P. Chaliha, Assam.

Shri Binodanand Jha, Bihar.

Dr. Jivraj Narayan Mehta, Gujarat.

*Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Jammu and Kashmir.

Shri Pattom A. Thanu Pillai, Kerala.

Shri B. R. Mandloi, Madhya Pradesh.

Shri K. Kamaraj, Madras.

Shri Yeshwantrao Balwantrao Chavan, Maharashtra.

[23rd July 1962

Shri S. R. Kanthi, Mysore.
Shri Bijoyananda Patnaik, Orissa.
Shri Pratap Singh Kairon, Punjab.
Shri Mohan Lal Sukhadia, Rajasthan.
Shri C. B. Gupta, Uttar Pradesh.
* Dr. B. C. Roy, West Bengal.

Leaders of political parties represented in Parliament—
Shri Sadiq Ali.
Shri Asoka Mehta (by special invitation).
Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha.
Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad (in place of Shri S. A. Dange).
Shri K. M. Munshi.
Shri A. B. Vajpayee.
† Shri Jaipal Singh.
Shri N. Siv Raj.
Shri Bishanchandar Seth (by special invitation).

Chairman of the National Integration Committee of the Indian National Congress—Shrimathi Indira Gandhi.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission—Shri D. S. Kothari.

Educationists—
* Dr. H. J. Bhabha.
Prof. M. Mujeeb.

Seven persons nominated by the Prime Minister, namely,—
Dr. Zakir Hussain.
Shri C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.
* Shri Jayaprakash Narayan.
Dr. Sampurnanand.
Shri C. D. Deshmukh.
Shri Frank Anthony.
Bhai Jodh Singh.

Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities—Shri B. Malik.

Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—Shri A. K. Chanda.

Central Government—Special invitees.

1. Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Minister for Education.

† 2. Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

3. Shri Sham Nath, Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

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* These members did not attend the meeting
† Did not attend in the after-noon of 3rd June 1962.

23rd July 1962]

APPENDIX II.

DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PRESS.

The Press shall—

(i) take all active steps to develop a feeling of unity, solidarity and cohesion in the hearts of the people and to create a sense of common citizenship and a feeling of a loyalty to the nation;

(ii) subordinate group loyalties based on caste, community, religion, region, or language to national interests;

(iii) condone no move of any person, party, or group to divide the country, or to create tension between its peoples;

(iv) condemn unreservedly incitement to violence or any advocacy of violence as a means of settling conflicts;

(v) withhold publication of unverified news which would tend to create discord, and refrain from giving prominent display to such news;

(vi) contradict or rectify all inaccurate reports or comments relating to such news;

(vii) highlight all activities, whether of the State or of the public, which promote the progress of the nation and unity of the country.

APPENDIX III.

1. As the Press is a primary instrument in the creation of public opinion, journalists should regard their calling as a trust and be ready and willing to serve and guard the public interest.

2. In the discharge of their duties, journalists should attach due value to fundamental human and social rights and shall hold good faith and fairplay in news reports and comments as essential professional obligations.

3. Freedom in the honest collection and publication of news and facts and the right of fair comment and criticism are principles which every journalist should always defend.

4. Journalists shall observe the restraint in reports and comments which are likely to aggravate tension likely to lead to violence.

5. Journalists shall endeavour to ensure that information disseminated is factually accurate. No fact shall be distorted and no essential fact shall be suppressed. No information known to be false or not believed to be true shall be published.

6. Responsibility shall be assumed for all information and comment published. If responsibility is disclaimed, this shall be explicitly stated beforehand.

7. Unconfirmed news shall be identified and treated as such.

8. Confidence shall always be respected and professional secrecy preserved, but it shall not be regarded as a breach of the code if the source of information is disclosed in matters coming up before the Press Council, or courts of law.

9. Journalists shall not allow personal interests to influence professional conduct.

10. Any report found to be inaccurate and any comment based on inaccurate reports shall be voluntarily rectified. It shall be obligatory to give fair publicity to a correction or contradiction when a report published is false or inaccurate in material particulars.

11. All persons engaged in the gathering, transmission and dissemination of news and commenting thereon shall seek to maintain full public confidence in the integrity and dignity of their profession. They shall assign and accept only such tasks as are compatible with this integrity and dignity; and they shall guard against exploitation of their status.

12. There is nothing so unworthy as the acceptance or demand of a bribe or inducement for the exercise by a journalist of his power to give or deny publicity to news or comment.

13. The carrying on of personal controversies in the Press, where no public issue is involved is unjournalistic and derogatory to the dignity of the profession.

14. It is unprofessional to give currency in the Press to rumours or gossip affecting the private life of individuals. Even verifiable news affecting individuals shall not be published unless public interests demand its publication.

15. Calumny and unfounded accusations are serious professional offences.

16. Plagiarism is also a serious professional offence.

17. In obtaining news or pictures, reporters and Press photographers shall do nothing that will cause pain or humiliation to innocent, bereaved or otherwise distressed persons.

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